

REMARKS

Claims 6, 7, 13 and 14 have been amended. Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application.

Claim rejections under 35 USC §112:

The Examiner objected to claims 6 and 13 for failing to provide antecedent basis for the term “indicated slot.” Applicant amended the dependencies of claims 6 and 13 to overcome this rejection. Even though not objected to, Applicant found a similar problem with claims 7 and 14 and amended these claims accordingly.

Claim rejection under 35 USC §102:

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6-8, and 13-14 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hemenway. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The present invention is related to computer program method and apparatus which provides for a unique feature neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art. According to the independent claims 1 and 8, when a user selects a module an “automatic indication procedure” is triggered. According to this indication procedure, all locations on the computer screen which are capable of receiving the selected module will be marked, thus, allowing the user to see immediately whereto the respective module can be dragged.

Hemenway on the contrary merely discloses a system as described as prior art in the present specification on page 8, lines 9-17. The main problem caused by such a system is that a user has to first drag the selected item to a receiving location to see whether it can be dropped at this location. Only if the selected item is dragged to the respective receiving location, a message will indicate that a drop procedure is possible or not possible. Thus, a user might get frustrated if he tries to drag and drop an item to several locations which actually cannot accept the item. The Hemenway system works identical to the system described in this paragraph. However, the present invention overcomes this problem by indication, such as marking up, all locations that can receive the respective item immediately after the item has been selected. Thus, no movement of the item is necessary. However, the user will now be able to identify all

locations to which the respective selected item can be dragged. Hence, frustration of certain invalid movements can be avoided.

With respect to claims 6, 7, 13 and 14, the present application refers to automation equipment which uses a rack with a plurality of slots. The dependencies of these claims have been amended to refer to the correct claims 2 and 9, respectively. Hemenway does neither disclose or suggest the use of such a rack.

Claim rejection under 35 USC §103:

The Examiner rejected claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, and 15 under 35 USC §102(b) as being unpatentable over Hemenway in view of Möhler and for some claims in further view of Fowlow. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As pointed out above, the independent claims are not anticipated by the prior art. Thus, the dependent claims include all the limitations of the respective independent claims and are, therefore, patentable at least to the extent of the independent claims. Because the independent claims are clearly not anticipated by the prior art, Applicant would like to defer any discussions with respect to these dependent claims at this point.

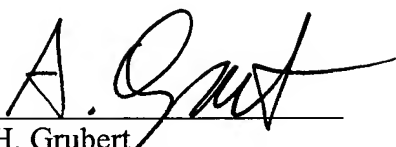
CONCLUSION

The application as defined in the pending claims is patentable under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 in view of the cited prior art. Therefore, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of all pending claims.

Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due at this time; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (*formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.*) Order Number 071308.0415.

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